CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for pricing a cryptographic service, comprising:

    (a)   receiving a request for a cryptographic service;

    (b)   identifying a computational burden required to perform the cryptographic service, including one or more of a privacy level of the cryptographic service or a speed of performing the cryptographic service; and

    (c)   determining a price of the cryptographic service based on at least one of computational burden, privacy level, and speed.

2.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a user requesting the cryptographic service specifies the privacy level.

3.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a user requesting the cryptographic service specifies the speed of performing the cryptographic service.

4.   The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising requesting payment for the cryptographic service from a user requesting the cryptographic service.

5.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the cryptographic service includes utilizing private information retrieval.

6.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the cryptographic service includes utilizing group authentication.

7.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the cryptographic service includes utilizing mix networks.

1   8.   A computer program embodied on a compute readable medium for pricing a
2   cryptographic service, comprising:

3   (a)   a code segment that receives a request for a cryptographic service;

4   (b)   a code segment that identifies a computational burden required to perform
5   the cryptographic service, including one or more of privacy level of the
6   cryptographic service or speed of performing the cryptographic service; and

7   (c)   a code segment that determines a price of the cryptographic service based on
8   at least one of computational burden, privacy level, and speed.

1   9.   The computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein a user requesting the
2   cryptographic service specifies the privacy level.

1   10.   The computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein a user requesting the
2   cryptographic service specifies the speed of performing the cryptographic
3   service.

1   11.   The computer program as recited in claim 8, further comprising a code
2   segment that requests payment for the cryptographic service from a user
3   requesting the cryptographic service.

1   12.   The computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the cryptographic
2   service includes utilizing private information retrieval.

1   13.   The computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the cryptographic
2   service includes utilizing group authentication.

1   14.   The computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the cryptographic
2   service includes utilizing mix networks.

1   15.   A system for pricing a cryptographic service, comprising:

2   (a)   logic that receives a request for a cryptographic service;

3   (b)   logic that identifies a computational burden required to perform the
4   cryptographic service, including one or more of a privacy level of the
5   cryptographic service or a speed of performing the cryptographic service;
6   and

7   (c)   logic that determines a price of the cryptographic service based on the at
8   least one of the computational burden, privacy level, and speed.

1   16.   The system as recited in claim 15, wherein a user requesting the
2   cryptographic service specifies the privacy level.

1   17.   The system as recited in claim 15, wherein a user requesting the
2   cryptographic service specifies the speed of performing the cryptographic
3   service.

1   18.   The system as recited in claim 15, further comprising logic that requests
2   payment for the cryptographic service from a user requesting the
3   cryptographic service.

1   19.   The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the cryptographic service
2   includes utilizing private information retrieval.

1   20.   The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the cryptographic service
2   includes utilizing group authentication.

     21.   The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the cryptographic service
         includes utilizing mix networks.

1   22.   A method for pricing a cryptographic service based on a compactness of an

2   encrypted message, comprising:

3   (a)   receiving a request for encrypting a message;

4   (b)   encrypting the message, wherein the message is compressed during the

5   encryption; and

6   (d)   calculating a price of the encryption based on the amount of compression.

1   23.   The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the cryptographic service is a

2   digital signature.

1   24.   The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the encryption utilizes random

2   bits.